



## U.S. hitting encouraging milestones on virus deaths and shots

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN  
Associated Press

COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. have dipped below 300 a day for the first time since the early days of the disaster in March 2020, while the drive to put shots in arms approached another encouraging milestone Monday: 150 million Americans fully vaccinated.

The coronavirus was the third leading cause of death in the U.S. in 2020, behind heart disease and cancer, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But now, as the outbreak loosens its grip, it has fallen down the list of the biggest killers.

CDC data suggests that more Americans are dying every day from accidents, chronic lower respiratory diseases, strokes or Alzheimer's disease than from COVID-19.

The U.S. death toll stands at more than 600,000, while the worldwide count is close to 3.9 million, though the real figures in both cases are believed to be markedly higher.

About 45% of the U.S. population has been fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Over 53% of Americans have received at least one dose of vaccine. But U.S. demand for shots has slumped, to the disappointment of public health experts.

Dr. Ana Diez Roux, dean of Drexel University's school of public health, said the dropping rates of infections and deaths are cause for celebration.

Continued on next page



In this June 17, 2021, file photo, an Orange County resident receives the COVID-19 vaccine at the Florida Division of Emergency Management mobile vaccination site at Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press



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#### Continued from Front

But she cautioned that the virus still has a chance to spread and mutate given the low vaccination rates in some states, including Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Wyoming and Idaho. "So far it looks like the vaccines we have are effective against the variants that are circulating," Diez Roux said. "But the more time the virus is jumping from person to person, the more time there is for variants to develop, and some of those could be more dangerous." New cases are running at about 11,400 a day on average, down from over a quarter-million per day in early January. Average deaths per day are down to about 293, according to Johns Hopkins University, after topping out at over 3,400 in mid-January. In New York, which suffered mightily in the spring



In this June 5, 2021, file photo, two men talk as crowds gather on L Street Beach in the South Boston neighborhood of Boston.

Associated Press

of 2020, Gov. Andrew Cuomo tweeted on Monday that the state had 10 new deaths. At the height of the

outbreak in the state, nearly 800 people a day were dying from the coronavirus. Some states are faring

worse than others. Missouri leads the nation in per-capita COVID-19 cases and is fourth behind Califor-

nia, Florida and Texas in the number of new cases per day over the past week despite its significantly smaller population.

The fall will bring new waves of infection, but they will be less severe and concentrated more in places with low vaccination rates, said Amber D'Souza, a professor of epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"So much depends on what happens over the summer and what happens with children," D'Souza said. "Anyone who is not vaccinated can become infected and transmit the virus."

Meanwhile, because of regulatory hurdles and other factors, President Joe Biden is expected to fall short of his commitment to share 80 million vaccine doses with the rest of the world by the end of June, officials said Monday. □

## High court sides with ex-athletes in NCAA compensation case



This June 8, 2021, file photo shows the Supreme Court in Washington.

Associated Press

By JESSICA GRESKO

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court decided unanimously Monday that the NCAA can't enforce rules limiting education-related benefits — like computers and paid internships — that colleges offer to stu-

dent athletes.

The case doesn't decide whether students can be paid salaries. Instead, the ruling will help determine whether schools decide to offer athletes tens of thousands of dollars in those benefits for things including tutoring, study abroad pro-

grams and graduate scholarships.

The high court agreed with a group of former college athletes that NCAA limits on the education-related benefits that colleges can offer athletes who play Division I basketball and football are unenforceable.

Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote for the court that the NCAA sought "immunity from the normal operation of the antitrust laws," which the court declined to grant.

Under current NCAA rules, students cannot be paid, and the scholarship money colleges can offer is capped at the cost of attending the school. The NCAA had defended its rules as necessary to preserve the amateur nature of college sports.

But the former athletes who brought the case, including former West Virginia football player Shawne Alston,

argued that the NCAA's rules on education-related compensation were unfair and violate federal antitrust law designed to promote competition. The Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling barring the NCAA from enforcing those rules. As a result of the ruling, the NCAA itself can't bar schools from sweetening their offers to Division I basketball and football players with additional education-related benefits. But individual athletic conferences can still set limits if they choose.

"It is our hope that this victory in the battle for college athletes' rights will carry on a wave of justice uplifting further aspects of athlete compensation," said Steve Berman, an attorney for the former college athletes, in a statement following the ruling. "This is the fair treatment college athletes de-

serve."

The NCAA had argued that a ruling for the athletes could lead to a blurring of the line between college and professional sports, with colleges trying to lure talented athletes by offering over-the-top education benefits worth thousands of dollars.

Even without the court's ruling, however, changes seem on the way for how college athletes are compensated. The NCAA has been working to amend its rules to allow athletes to profit from their names, images and likenesses, frequently abbreviated NIL. That would allow athletes to earn money for things like sponsorship deals, online endorsement and personal appearances. For some athletes, those amounts could dwarf any education-related benefits. □



# Paid in full? Biden, GOP struggle over infrastructure costs

By KEVIN FREKING and LISA MASCARO

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Congressional negotiators and the White House appear open to striking a roughly \$1 trillion deal on infrastructure. But they are struggling with the hard part — how to pay for it.

As President Joe Biden jumps back into the talks this week, the question of where the money will come from looms large. And time is running short to solve it. Biden wants to increase taxes for corporations and those households making more than \$400,000 a year. Republicans have ruled that out, putting forward alternatives that Democrats find unacceptable.

It's a long-standing challenge with no easy solution, one that puts the bipartisan agreement around infrastructure in tension with the nettlesome realities of governing. It's a problem that has thwarted previous attempts at an infrastructure bill, including during the Trump administration, and their ability to solve it now is likely to determine whether a bipartisan accord is possible.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has said so-called user fees are the way to go. But the White House and key Democratic lawmakers oppose increasing the user fee that has traditionally funded road and bridge construction, the federal gas tax, even if



A Denver Water crew works to replace a lead water service line installed in 1927 with a new copper one at a private home on Thursday, June 17, 2021, in Denver.

Associated Press

the increase is just allowing it to rise at the rate of inflation from its current level of 18.4 cents per gallon. The federal gas tax has not increased since 1993.

"The president's pledge was not to raise taxes on Americans making less than \$400,000 a year, and the proposed gas tax or vehicle mileage tax would do exactly that," said White House press secretary Jen Psaki. "So that is a nonstarter for him. I'd also note for the mathematicians in the room that only raises \$40 billion, which is a fraction of what this proposal would cost."

Psaki said Monday that

Biden is expected to meet with lawmakers in the coming days.

"He does not feel the time is unlimited," said Psaki, adding that "it is not weeks in his view in terms of moving forward and seeing if there's a bipartisan path forward."

One idea under consideration is reallocating money already approved as part of COVID relief measures. Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, said Sunday that they're looking at repurposing more than \$100 billion from COVID relief to help pay for infrastructure. He put the onus on the White House to put forward other ideas, since Democrats are

balking at indexing the gas tax to inflation or creating a user fee for electric vehicles.

"The administration, therefore, will need to come forward with some other ideas without raising taxes," Portman said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "What we don't want to do is hurt the economy right now as we're coming out of this pandemic by raising taxes on working families."

Both parties are eyeing funds that could be raised by going after tax dodgers. The Republicans estimate about \$63 billion could be raised by beefing up enforcement by the Internal

Revenue Service. Democrats say the amount could be even higher.

Another complication in the negotiations is that many Democrats question whether the size and scope of the infrastructure package being discussed by the White House and senators is adequate. Within the \$1 trillion package, about \$579 billion would be new spending and the remainder would be a continuation of existing programs. Many Democrats are wary of a repeat of 2009, when Barack Obama was president and they spent months negotiating the details of the Affordable Care Act with Republicans. Eventually Democrats passed the package that became known as "Obamacare" on their own.

"The amount of money that they are proposing is about one-quarter of what the president talked about in terms of new money. That's not adequate," said Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., on CNN's "State of the Union." Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has described the infrastructure bill being negotiated as a good start. But he says most Democrats don't believe it does enough on climate and also want it to address priorities like paid family leave. He is pushing a "two-track" approach that leaves open the possibility of a far larger bill without Republican votes. □

## Biden White House launches public push for child tax credit

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The White House sought Monday to raise awareness of the federal government's new expanded child tax credit, which will start paying out monthly in July to families with children who are 17 years old and younger.

Vice President Kamala Harris spoke at a recreation center in Pittsburgh as part of a broader push to promote the program in partnership with churches,

schools and other organizations.

"When more families know about how they can get the relief, that is how we will be able to lift our children out of poverty," Harris said. The administration has launched the website <https://childtaxcredit.gov> with details for potential recipients. As part of President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, eligible families can receive as much as \$3,600

for each child under the age of 6. The tax credit will be \$3,000 annually per child between the ages of 6 and 17. The payments are to be made monthly, a first for the program. People can register for the program even if they did not fully file their taxes.

The program is slated to expire after one year, though Biden has proposed extending it through 2025 with the ultimate goal of making it permanent. □



Vice President Kamala Harris leans in for a photograph with Stella Quatrini, after Harris spoke about the child tax credit at Brookline Memorial Recreation Center, Monday June 21, 2021, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press



# Tornado sweeps through suburban Chicago, causing damage

**CHICAGO (AP)** — A tornado swept through communities in heavily populated suburban Chicago, damaging more than 100 homes, toppling trees, knocking out power and causing multiple injuries, officials said.

There was relief Monday, though, as authorities reported that it appeared no one had died. Less than a dozen people were hurt in the tornado that touched down after 11 p.m. Sunday, and all were expected to recover.

At least eight people were hospitalized in Naperville, where 22 homes were left "uninhabitable" and more than 130 homes were damaged in the suburb of 147,500 people that's about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Chicago.

Two people initially described in critical condition had improved by Monday afternoon, said Naperville Fire Chief Mark Puknaitis.

"It could have been a lot worse, I will say that," Puknaitis said. "When you look at the destruction that has occurred over this five square block area or so, it's



**Bridget Casey sits in the driveway of her severely damaged home with her son Nate, 16, and daughter Marion, 14, after a tornado swept through the area in Woodridge, Ill., early Monday morning, June 21, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

amazing that we can stand here and report that we only had eight people that were transported to a hospital." Officials in the nearby village of Woodridge said a tornado damaged at least 100 structures. The village's fire chief said three people were taken to hos-

pitals, but he could not provide more detail on their injuries during a Monday press conference.

Woodridge Police Chief Brian Cunningham said early warnings likely minimized the number of injuries.

"It was a nighttime event, a lot of people were sleep-

ing, weren't aware of what was going on," he said. "The early warning got people to shelter. And the fact that there's only three people injured and the amount of devastation that's in the community, it's just amazing." The storm destroyed the second floor of Bridget

Casey's Woodridge home. She sat in a lawn chair in the driveway before sunrise Monday. Her 16-year-old son, Nate, said he was watching TV when the storm swept through and he raced to help his mother get his three younger siblings to the basement.

"I just heard a loud crash and I'm thinking, 'Oh, what are my brothers up to?' I go look and I see the sky, and then I hear my brothers screaming from the room," he told the Chicago Sun-Times. Mayor Gina Cunningham called the damage to homes and other property in the village "extensive."

"I'm just emotional because it is devastating to drive through the community that I grew up in and worked in and share with so many wonderful neighbors," she said.

The tornado was confirmed by radar, and a team with the National Weather Service began surveying damage Monday to determine its strength and path. The agency said one tornado likely caused damage in Naperville, Woodridge and Darien. □

# St. Louis city and county sue to block new Missouri gun law



**In this Jan. 27, 2021 file photo, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson delivers the State of the State address in Jefferson City, Mo.**

**Associated Press**

**By JIM SALTER**  
**Associated Press**

**O'FALLON, Mo. (AP)** — St. Louis and adjoining St. Louis County filed a lawsuit Monday seeking to block Missouri's new law barring state and local authorities from enforcing federal gun laws, saying the law would increase the risk of gun violence in a state already

drowning in it.

The suit filed in Cole County Circuit Court seeks an injunction to halt enforcement of the law and to overturn it on the grounds that it violates the Constitution's Supremacy Clause, which established that federal law trumps state law.

The law, which Republican Gov. Mike Parson signed

this month, would subject law enforcement agencies with officers who knowingly enforce any federal gun laws to a fine of about \$50,000 per violating officer.

Republican lawmakers who championed the legislation said they were motivated by the possibility that gun restrictions could be tightened by President Joe Biden's administration. Democrats said the law is unconstitutional and predicted it wouldn't survive a court challenge.

Democratic St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones said the law is not only unconstitutional, but dangerous. She noted that 2020 was among the deadliest years ever for gun violence in Missouri. St. Louis had its deadliest year in a half-century. Kansas City, meanwhile, saw a record number of killings last year.

St. Louis County Executive Sam Page, also a Democrat, said the region can't prosper if people don't feel safe.

"This new law is like the state holding out a sign that says 'Come Commit Gun Violence Here,'" Page said in a statement.

The U.S. Department of Justice, in a letter last week, warned Missouri officials that the state can't ignore federal law. Parson and Attorney General Eric Schmitt responded that they still plan to enforce the new law.

Schmitt's spokesman, Chris Nuelle, called the lawsuit a "partisan" maneuver by "progressive politicians."

"We will continue our efforts to prosecute violent crime, and we will not shy away from defending the Second Amendment rights of law abiding citizens," Nuelle said.

The state law also prompted the resignation of the police chief of O'Fallon, a St. Louis suburb that is home to about 89,000 people and is the state's seventh-largest city. The outgoing chief, Philip Dupuis, said in a statement this month that the law would "decrease public safety and increase frivolous lawsuits designed to harass and penalize good, hard-working law enforcement agencies." Several states passed similar laws this year, including Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Montana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. Missouri's law went further than most in its possible punishments for officers who do enforce federal gun laws.

Several states also passed similar laws during Barack Obama's time in the White House, but judges ruled against them. □



# EU, U.S., U.K., Canada join forces to slap sanctions on Belarus

By LORNE COOK

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The United States, the European Union, Britain and Canada joined forces Monday to impose sanctions on several senior officials in Belarus over the forced diversion to Minsk of a passenger plane traveling between two EU countries last month.

Asset freezes and travel bans were also imposed on a number of officials linked to the security crackdown that continues to rock the country some 10 months after President Alexander Lukashenko was returned to power in elections branded by the EU and others as "fraudulent."

"We are united in our deep concern regarding the Lukashenko regime's continuing attacks on human rights, fundamental freedoms, and international law," the four said in a joint statement.

"We are committed to support the long-suppressed democratic aspirations of the people of Belarus and we stand together to impose costs on the regime for its blatant disregard of international commitments," they said.

The EU hit seven people and one entity over the "forced and unlawful" landing of the Ryanair plane, which was traveling from Greece to Lithuania when it was ordered to stop in Minsk, where authorities ar-



European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, right, greets Belarusian opposition politician Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya during a European Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting at the European Council building in Luxembourg, Monday, June 21, 2021.

Associated Press

rested Raman Pratasevich, a dissident journalist who was one of the passengers. The four called on Minsk to cooperate with an international probe into the incident, immediately release all political prisoners, and "enter into a comprehensive and genuine political dialogue" with the democratic opposition and civil society.

Among those targeted by the United States were close Lukashenko associates, those accused of helping to violently suppress peaceful protests since last year and others alleged to have orchestrated fraud

during the elections. At a meeting in Luxembourg, EU foreign ministers also prepared a series of economic measures that are aimed at hitting Lukashenko and his allies. EU leaders are expected to endorse them at a summit in Brussels on Thursday. The EU has gradually ratcheted up sanctions since Lukashenko — dubbed the last dictator in Europe — won a sixth term last August. But the 27-nation bloc has taken a harder approach since the Ryanair incident, and over the country's alleged use of migrants to pressure neighboring Lithu-

ania, which has provided a safe-haven to Belarusian opposition figures and is one of Lukashenko's most vocal critics. Among their actions Monday, the ministers imposed travel bans and asset freezes on 78 Belarus officials and froze the assets of 8 "entities," which are usually companies, banks, or associations. It means that a total of 166 people and 15 entities are now under EU restrictive measures. "This decision was made in view of the escalation of serious human rights violations in Belarus and the violent repression of civil

society, democratic opposition and journalists," a statement said.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, who chaired the meeting, said the economic sanctions "are going to hurt ... the economy of Belarus heavily."

The measures are likely to include action against the export of potash — a common fertilizer ingredient — tobacco industry exports and petroleum products, among others.

"We will no longer just sanction individuals. We will now also impose sectoral sanctions -- meaning that we will now get to work on the economic areas that are of particular significance for Belarus and for the regime's income," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said.

"We want to make very, very clear to Lukashenko that there is no going back," Maas said.

Maas said the 27 EU countries stand united on sanctions "We are really very, very determined not to budge, not just today -- nothing about this will change in the coming weeks and months," he said.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said EU countries had thought only a month ago that it still might be possible to reason with Lukashenko but that "the mood is different now." □

## Germany gets 1st military rabbi in over a century

**BERLIN (AP)** — The German military got its first rabbi in over a century Monday, with the inauguration to the post of Hungarian-born Zsolt Balla at a synagogue in Leipzig.

The German government in 2019 approved a proposal by the Central Council of Jews to restore religious counseling for Jews serving in the armed forces.

"This was unthinkable for decades and still can't be taken for granted," the head of the Central Council, Josef Schuster, said. "That's why we have all

reason to be happy and grateful today."

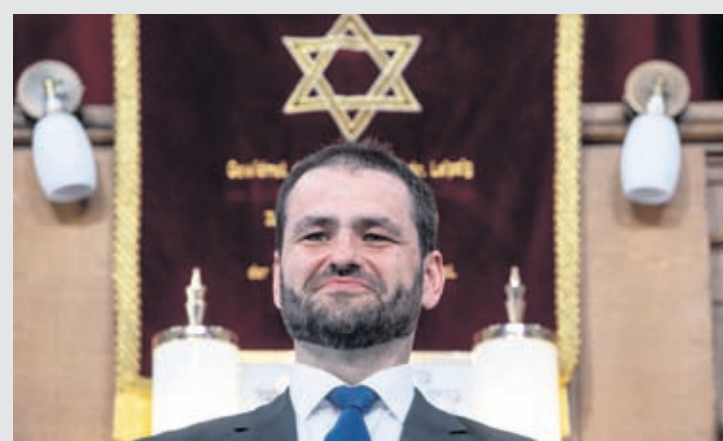
During World War I, many Jews fought for Germany and dozens of rabbis are known to have performed pastoral work in the military. After Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, the Nazis excluded Jews from all spheres of public life, later murdering millions in the Holocaust.

Schuster said Balla would ensure Jewish soldiers can serve in the military in line with their religious rules, and also teach non-Jewish soldiers about Judaism's traditions and holy days,

thereby helping reduce prejudice.

The 42-year-old rabbi, who was ordained in 2009, said he felt "incredibly gratitude to be allowed to live in a country that faces its past but has also resolved to go forward and actively make the world better."

According to German news agency dpa, there are about 300 Jews in Germany's 180,000-strong Bundeswehr. About half of the country's military belong to a Christian denomination, while 3,000 are Muslim. The German army already had only Catholic



Zsolt Balla, State Rabbi of Saxony, stands in the synagogue in Leipzig, Germany, Monday June 21, 2021, after his induction into the office of Military Rabbi of the Armed Forces.

Associated Press

and Lutheran chaplains, and there are plans to introduce Muslim religious counseling in future. □



# Iran president-elect takes hard line, refuses to meet Biden

By ISABEL DEBRE and JON GAMBRELL

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Iran's president-elect staked out a hard-line position Monday in his first remarks since his landslide election victory, rejecting the possibility of meeting with President Joe Biden or negotiating Tehran's ballistic missile program and support of regional militias. The comments by Ebrahim Raisi offered a blunt preview of how Iran might deal with the wider world in the next four years as it enters a new stage in negotiations to resurrect its now-tattered 2015 nuclear deal with global powers.

The news conference in Tehran also marked the first time the judiciary chief found himself confronted on live television about his role in the 1988 mass execution of political prisoners at the end of the Iran-Iraq war. Raisi offered no specific response to that dark chapter in Iranian history, but appeared confident and defiant as he described himself as a "defender of human rights."

Behind a sea of microphones, mostly from media in Iran and countries home to Tehran-backed militias, Raisi took questions ranging from his views on the nuclear talks to relations with regional rival Saudi Arabia. He appeared nervous at the start of the hourlong session but grew increasingly at ease as he returned to vague campaign themes of promoting Iran's economic self-sufficiency and combating corruption. The 60-year-old cleric, a protégé of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, swept nearly 62% of the 28.9 million votes in Friday's presidential election, which saw the lowest turnout in the Islamic Republic's history. Millions of Iranians stayed home in defiance of a vote they saw as tipped in Raisi's favor after a panel under Khamenei disqualified prominent reformist candidates and allies of relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani. Tehran province had a staggeringly low 34%



Iran's new President-elect Ebrahim Raisi waves to participants at the conclusion of his press conference in Tehran, Iran, Monday, June 21, 2021.

turnout, roughly half of previous years, with many polling stations noticeably deserted.

Concerning the talks over Iran's nuclear deal, Raisi promised to salvage the accord to secure relief from U.S. sanctions that have devastated the Iranian economy. But he ruled out any limits to Iran's missile capabilities and support for regional militias — among other issues viewed by Washington as shortcomings of the landmark deal that the Biden administration wants addressed.

"It's nonnegotiable," Raisi said of Iran's ballistic missile program, adding that the U.S. "is obliged to lift all oppressive sanctions against Iran."

Tehran's fleet of attack aircraft largely dates back to before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, forcing Iran to instead invest in missiles as a hedge against its regional Arab neighbors, which have bought billions of dollars in American military hardware over the years. Those missiles, with a self-imposed range limit of 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles), can reach across the Mideast and U.S. military bases in the region.

Iran also supports militant groups like Yemen's Houthi

rebels and Lebanon's Hezbollah to bolster its influence and counter its regional foes.

When asked about a possible meeting with Biden, Raisi curtly answered: "No." He frowned and stared ahead, without elaborating. His moderate competitor in the election, Abdolnasser Hemmati, had suggested during campaigning that he might be willing to meet Biden.

The White House did not immediately respond to Raisi's statements. Raisi will become the first serving Iranian president sanctioned by the U.S. government even before entering office, in part over his time as the head of Iran's internationally criticized judiciary — a situation that could complicate state visits and speeches at international forums such as the United Nations.

Raisi's election vaults hardliners to top posts across the government as negotiations grind on in Vienna to try to rescue Tehran's nuclear deal, which lifted sanctions on Iran in exchange for curbs on its atomic program.

In 2018, then-U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the agreement, setting off

months of spiraling tensions across the Middle East.

Trump's decision has, over time, seen Iran abandon every limitation on enrichment. Tehran is now enriching uranium to 60%, its highest level ever, though still short of weapons-grade 90%. Diplomats from parties to the deal returned to their capitals for consultations following the latest round of negotiations Sunday.

With the collapse of the deal, Rouhani and his fellow moderates watched their popularity plummet. Now, the ascendancy of a hard-liner hostile to the West has stoked concerns about the future of the accord and regional stability. But in his remarks Monday, Raisi emphasized the deal's importance, describing sanctions relief as "central to our foreign policy" and exhorting the U.S. to "return and implement your commitments."

On Sunday, months after Iranian officials warned that U.S. sanctions were hampering their ability to procure parts for Iran's sole nuclear plant at Bushehr, the facility underwent an unexplained emergency shutdown.

Whether Iran and the U.S. will be able to move beyond the deal to discuss

further thorny issues remains in question, however.

"No matter the timing, a U.S.-Iran agreement in Vienna leaves unanswered whether the United States can achieve a broader rapprochement with an Iran led by an avowed proponent of the core tenets of Iran's Islamic Revolution," the New York-based Soufan Center said in an analysis.

On Saudi Arabia, which has recently started secret talks with Iran in Baghdad over several points of contention, Raisi said that Iran would have "no problem" with a possible reopening of the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and that the "restoration of relations faces no barrier." The embassy shut down in 2016 as relations deteriorated.

Raisi displayed defiance when asked about the 1988 executions, which saw sham retrials of political prisoners, militants and others that would become known as "death commissions."

After Iran's then-Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini accepted a U.N.-brokered cease-fire, members of the Iranian opposition group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, heavily armed by Saddam Hussein, stormed across the Iranian border from Iraq in a surprise attack. Iran blunted their assault.

The trials began around that time, with defendants asked to identify themselves. Those who responded "mujahedeen" were sent to their deaths, while others were questioned about their willingness to "clear minefields for the army of the Islamic Republic," according to a 1990 Amnesty International report. International rights groups estimate that as many as 5,000 people were executed. Raisi served on the commissions.

On Monday, there was no somber tone.

"I am proud of being a defender of human rights and of people's security and comfort as a prosecutor wherever I was," Raisi said. □

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## Fear shakes Mexico border city after violence leaves 18 dead

By **ALFREDO PEÑA**

**Associated Press**

**CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico (AP)** — Fear has invaded the Mexican border city of Reynosa after gunmen in vehicles killed 14 people, including taxi drivers, workers and a nursing student, and security forces responded with operations that left four suspects dead.

While this city across the border from McAllen, Texas is used to cartel violence as a key trafficking point, the 14 victims in Saturday's attacks appeared to be what Tamaulipas Gov. Francisco García Cabeza de Vaca called "innocent citizens" rather than members of one gang killed by a rival. Local businessman Misael Chavarria Garza said many businesses closed early Saturday after the attacks and people were very scared as helicopters flew overhead. On Sunday, he said "the people were quiet as if nothing had happened, but with a feeling of anger because now crime has happened to innocent people."

"It's not fair," said taxi driver Rene Guevara, adding that among the dead were two of his fellow taxi drivers whom he defended and said were not involved in crime.

The attacks took place in several neighborhoods in eastern Reynosa, according to the Tamaulipas state agency that coordi-

nates security forces, and sparked a deployment of the military, National Guard and state police across the city. Images posted on social media showed bodies in the streets.

Authorities say they are investigating the attacks and haven't provided a motive. But the area's criminal activity has long been dominated by the Gulf Cartel and there have been fractures within that group. Experts say there has been an internal struggle within the group since 2017 to control key territories for drug and human trafficking. Apparently, one cell from a nearby town may have entered Reynosa to carry out the attacks.

Olga Ruiz, whose 19-year-old brother Fernando Ruiz was killed by the gunmen, said her sibling was working as a plumber and bricklayer in a company owned by his stepfather to pay for his studies.

"They killed him in cold blood, he and two of his companions," said Olga Ruiz, adding that the gunmen arrived where her brother was fixing a drain.

"They heard the gunshots from afar and my stepfather told him: 'son, you have to take shelter.' So he asked permission to enter a house but my brother and his companions were only about to enter when the vehicles arrived," Ruiz said. "They stopped in front of



**Law enforcement officials say gunmen aboard a number of vehicles have staged attacks in several neighborhoods in the Mexican border city of Reynosa.**

**Associated Press**

them and started to shoot." On Saturday, authorities detained a person who was transporting two apparently kidnapped women in the trunk of a car.

Security is one of the great challenges facing the government of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. He has assured Mexicans that he is fighting the root causes of the violence and since the beginning of his administration in December 2018, he has advocated "hugs, not bullets" in dealing with criminals. He also says he is fighting corruption to stop the infiltration of organized crime among authorities.

But the violence continues. "Criminal organizations must receive a clear, explicit and forceful signal from the Federal Government that there will be no

there will be no truce for the violent."

But García Cabeza de Vaca himself is being investigated by the federal prosecutor's office for organized crime and money laundering - accusations he says are part of plan by López Obrador's government to attack him for being an opponent.

Tamaulipas - the state where the Zetas cartel arose and where the Gulf Cartel continues to operate - has seen several of its past governors from the Institutional Revolutionary Party accused of corruption and links to organized crime. One former governor, Tomás Yarrington, was extradited to the United States from Italy in 2018 on drug trafficking charges. □



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## AUA Airport's air seat capacity climb continues as airlines continue to build summer network to meet growing demand

### Airlines to add over 125 flights to June and July AUA Airport flight schedules

**ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA), company that manages and operates Queen Beatrix International Airport (AUA Airport) reports the following traffic highlights:**

- AUA airport to operate 80% of 2019 pre-pandemic schedules in June 2021.
- All regions have taken an upward step this month.
- Average outbound passenger load factor: 69.5%, compared to 85% in 2019.
- Services: 25 per day, compared to 35 in 2019.

Airlines are adding new flight routes and reviving old ones, as leisure travel continues to return this summer as the US national vaccination rate moves higher.

According to schedules from Cirium combined with CAPA Fleet Database seat configurations, AUA Airport Flight Schedules (translated into air seat capacity) for 3rd quarter and early winter 2021-2022 are still showing recovery rates of 83% and 94% of 2019 levels.

The statistics represent AUA Airport's quarterly seat capacity (released on June 7, 2021) by region. Note that schedules filed by airlines for the rest of the summer are regularly being trimmed.

Latin America continues to have the deepest cut among the regions. Nevertheless, it continues a modestly improving trend since the period between mid-April and late May. With Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia having the highest number of cases in South America.

Overall Air Seat Capacity is likely to be at 80% of pre-pandemic levels between June and September, rising to 94% between November and December, depending on the success of the Latin America's vaccine program and multi-speed travel market recovery, with overall winter traffic potentially at 75-100%.

Summer 2021 | Schedule Highlights:

Region	Q1-2021	Q2-2021	Q2 vs. Q1	Q3-2021	Q3 vs. Q2
United States	212,630	265,559	52,929	271,801	6,242
Canada	1,643	-	(1,643)	1,512	1,512
Latin America	15,654	13,126	(2,528)	12,394	(732)
Europe	32,753	33,351	598	38,541	5,190
Neth. Ant. - Ven & Caribbean	9,824	11,548	1,724	13,566	2,018
Total	272,504	323,584	51,080	337,814	14,230
% Difference			19%		4%

#### North America

- American Airlines increased daily (7) service from Charlotte to 3 daily flights (21) for the peak summer months June and July.
- American Airlines resumed 1 weekly Saturday service from La Guardia from June 12th.
- United Airlines increased service from Washington from 3 weekly to daily (7) service in June.
- JetBlue to increase service from JFK from 14 to 17 weekly flights in July.
- WestJet tentative restart date, November 6, 2021, with 2 weekly service from Toronto.
- Air Canada tentative restart date, September 11, 2021, with 2 weekly service from Toronto.

#### Latin America

- Avianca plans to increase service from 4 to 5 weekly (Wednesday flight) from Bogota for the peak summer months July – August.

#### Europe

- KLM to start daily service (now 6 weekly) from Amsterdam (via Bon) in July.

- KLM added 3 extra weekly flights for the peak summer weeks from July 23 through August 15, 2021.
- TUI NL increased service from 1 to 3 weekly from Amsterdam (via Cur) in June and plans to add an extra flight on Tuesdays starting July 6 through October 2021.
- TUI UK plans to restart 1 weekly year-round service from Gatwick from July 7, 2021, subject to UK- Government next review of green list countries.

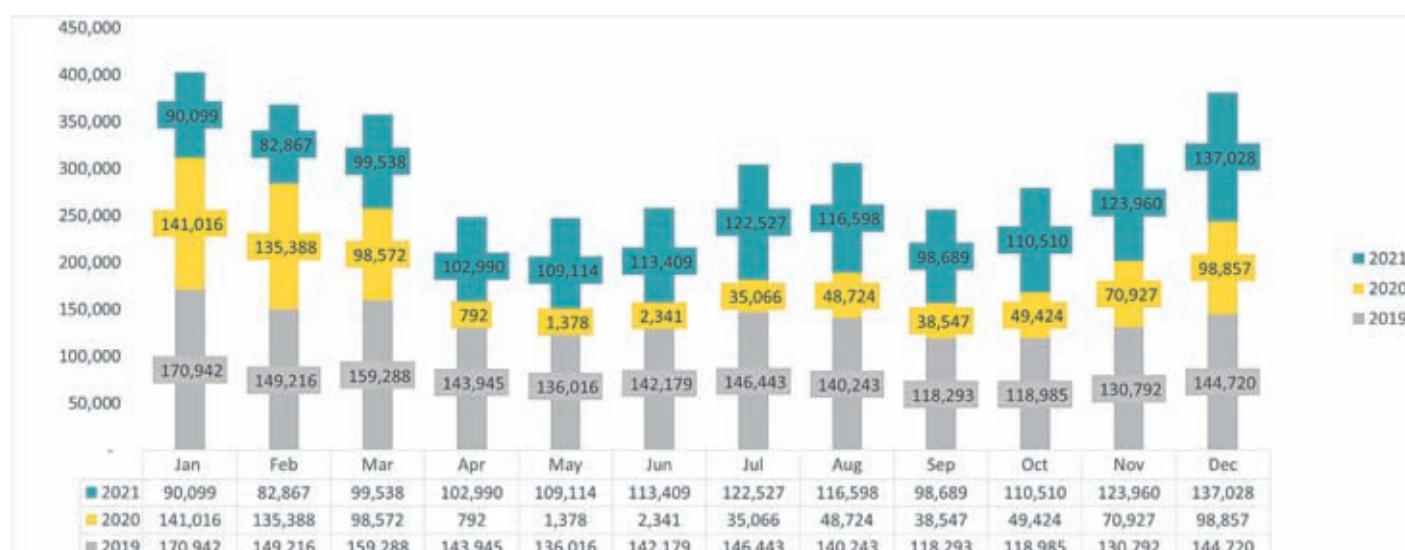
AUA Airport continues to update the information on certain major airlines as they are able. Flight schedules are changing constantly and are subject to change at any time. Visit AUA Airport's Flight Schedules page for the summer schedule details and latest confirmed schedule information received from its airline partners <https://www.airportaruba.com/flight-schedules>.

The demand environment is unquestionably positive with our airlines adding new destinations and capacity by increasing the frequency of flights. We are confident that we will see a return to relative high volumes in that key July, August, September quarter"; AUA Airport's Air Service Development Manager Mrs. Jo-Anne Meaux-Arends.

#### About Aruba Airport Authority N.V.

Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix (AUA Airport) is one of the busiest airports in the Caribbean region, contributing to processing over 1 million passengers per year. With 17 airlines operating into Aruba and providing air service to 20 destinations worldwide, Aruba Airport is operationally solid which over 95% of all visitors are leisure guests, 88% from the United States & Canada, 4% from Latin America, 6% from Europe, and 2% from Dutch Caribbean, year to date, May 2021 Aruba Airport Authority attributes this to its stable economic and political climate, hospitable and multilingual population, and safe environment. Aruba Airport undergoes continuous upgrades to maintain its position as one of the region's most innovative airports.

Learn more about what's happening at Aruba International Airport by visiting Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix, Aruba International Airport ([airportaruba.com](http://airportaruba.com)) and connect with AUA on Twitter Queen Beatrix International Airport - Aruba (@ARUBA\_AIRPORT) / Twitter and at Facebook Queen Beatrix International Airport - Startpagina | Facebook.





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**80 % sold, construction in final phase:**  
**Harbour House Aruba is ready for you!**

ORANJESTAD — It was the official Grand Opening of Harbour House Aruba last Thursday, June 10th. The residence consisting of 94 units is located in the former Mar Azul building, right in the heart of Oranjestad. The two brothers Irwin J. Perret-Gentil and Alberto Perret-Gentil from PERING, one of the largest, privately-owned Real Estate and construction firms in Venezuela and Aruba, officially opened their new jewel in the presence of the invitees.

Harbour House Aruba is the ultimate smart investment or personal living space. A state-of-the-art lobby, an ocean-view gym, bar service, rooftop with 360 degrees view of Oranjestad, on-site parking, 24-hours security and a top floor lounge area with Jacuzzi's. Cherry on the cake: an infinity pool with a panorama on the harbour.

Harbour House Aruba offers cosmopolitan living in a beach-chic environment. The residence is fast-selling their studios, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units for many reasons but in a nutshell we can name: great location, great value for your money and great quality. To see exactly what still is available you may check the website which shows you a map with sold and open units. Updates on construction are also on forehand. When you live abroad stopping by to check upon your purchase is not that simple, yet with the monthly updates on their website, it is a lot easier.

**Hottest condo in town**

Aruba Today talked to one of the owners from New York: "This is going to be the hottest condo building on the island because this is the very first thing people see when they arrive here by cruise ship and it is the only one combining the ocean, port and city. We feel so happy to be the owner here, also, the organization is amazing. We are being accommodated in every way, the attention you get is extraordinary."

**Boardwalk**

Living here includes being part of Oranjestad and all its benefits. Around the Harbour House



building a boardwalk is constructed allowing you to stroll along the waterfront and enjoy a drink on a terrace or dive into the art gallery, souvenir store or even have dinner facing the atmospheric harbour of Oranjestad.

The process of purchase is easy, whether you are abroad or on the island. Make an appoint-



ment through the website to visit the sales office when you are here. In that way you can actually see the unit, materials and amenities. If you are not on the island the website can help you out and the sales office is happy to send you all needed documentation for you to orientate. When agreed upon the unit you sign an agreement and move forward with the down payment which is \$ 50.000. At receipt of that amount the sales is closed and the price will not change. You know what you get and will not be surprised by price changes. The payment agreements after the deposit will be discussed and are flexible. Harbour House Aruba assist also in financing by banks.

**For more information:**

<https://harbourhousearuba.com>

HARBOUR HOUSE  
Aruba





Article by Etnia Nativa

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## Stone Age Natives

Episode CIX - 109

**NOORD** — Paleo Amerindian societies moved by land and sea (along the coasts). Their material legacy, which includes works in stone, bone, ivory and wood, is indicative of groups with a family, clan or tribal organization, who live by hunting, fishing and gathering, but are also engaged in artistic and cultural expressions and spiritual activities.

The cultural diversity and similarities of these groups can determine a lot regarding their origin and path used to reach Aruba. These characteristics reflected in the way that they buried their deaths. Their distinctive shovel teeth incisors, the peculiar shape of their bones, skulls and jaws, and their tool making abilities left behind as testimony of the part that have played in our history.

Various archaic sites are present on our island. Some are stone quarries, shell maidens and gathering locations while others where single graves, family or clan cemeteries and other natural sites that offer great shelter. From burial sites we can obtain great information regarding these early peoples and specially though their bones. One of these single graves site was discovered at Piedra di Wara wara, in 1976. Sabania Abao, Sta. Cruz. A single male having shovel incisors, Approx. 37 at age of death, laying North beneath a diorite bolder in a crouch or fetal position on his right side, cranium resting in right hand, microscopic red ocher pigment present on skull.

The only way I suppose these people could have arrived was by sea, however if the sea level was lower in those days, they could have walked and jumped a steam or two. Canashito was one of these sites that these paleo natives liked a lot. One for its safety features, shelter offering caves and fresh water that could be collected for daily use.



At Malmok cemetery, combinations of 2 graves at cross angles have been attested several times: they always contained a male and a female skeleton. Unfortunately, only the sex of one grave at Canashito is known to be a male and one of the skeletons seems to be a short person.

Three of the Canashito dead had

their head resting on hand, in a similar fashion as most of the paleo deads at the cemetery at Malmok and the grave at Piedra di Warawara. The burial cluster in Canashito is especially interesting when compared to the cluster of Malmok.

The Malmok site is situated at a distance of 200 m South and 300 m north from the sea, parallel to a former saliña or salt-lake. The site shares its sandy subsoil with the salt-lake. Limestone is found below the sand in the site. This limestone is part of the Lower Terrace Formation. It was formed during a period of a rising sea level. The limestone emerged by the subsequent lowering of the sea level and tectonic uprising. Most of the area of the Malmok site is flat terrain near the saliña.□



To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades.

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# Liz Weston: How to harness your HSA's superpowers

By **LIZ WESTON** of NerdWallet

If you have a high-deductible health insurance plan, a health savings account can help you pay your medical bills. But HSAs have hidden superpowers that make them a great way for some people to create a tax-free pot of money for retirement or other long-term goals. In the right circumstances, you can even use an HSA to help your young adult children start saving for their futures.

Not everyone is a good candidate for a high-deductible health insurance policy, however. The minimum deductible that qualifies you to use an HSA is \$1,400 for individual coverage or \$2,800 for family coverage. Many plans ask you to contribute even more before coverage kicks in. If meeting the high deductible would be a hardship, or cause you to scrimp on health care, you're probably better off choosing a lower-deductible policy and skipping an HSA.

If a high deductible policy is a good fit, you'll need even more cash to take full advantage of an HSA: enough to pay the deductible and other health care expenses out of your own pocket, without tapping the account. That's a pretty

tall order, but you can still benefit from an HSA even if you have to spend some of the money along the way.

Here are the four biggest advantages to an HSA.

## **SUPERPOWER 1: YOU CAN GET TRIPLE TAX BENEFITS**

HSAs offer a rare triple tax break: your contributions are deductible, the money grows tax-deferred and withdrawals aren't taxed if you have qualified medical expenses.

By contrast, withdrawals from other tax-advantaged accounts, such as 401(k)s, are typically taxed as income. If withdrawals are tax-free — as they can be from Roth IRAs — you didn't get a tax break when you put the money in.

## **SUPERPOWER 2: YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEND THE MONEY**

Any unspent balances in your HSA can be rolled over from year to year. That's in contrast to flexible spending accounts, another tax-advantaged way to pay for medical expenses. FSAs require users to spend the money within a certain period or those contributions are forfeited.

FSAs allow you to contribute \$2,750 in 2021. Individuals can contribute up to \$3,600 to an HSA this year, while families can put in up to \$7,200, plus there's a \$1,000 catch-up contri-



This April 2017 file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

bution for people 55 and older.

HSA contributions can be invested — and that means your money can really grow. Even if you have to spend some of the money along the way, the tax-free growth can add up.

## **SUPERPOWER 3: ANY WITHDRAWAL COULD POTENTIALLY BE TAX-FREE**

As mentioned, withdrawals are tax-free if used for qualified medical expenses, including health insurance deductibles and copayments. The IRS maintains a list of eligible expenses ranging from acupuncture to X-rays. You can't double-

dip: Only eligible expenses that haven't been reimbursed by another source, such as insurance or a flexible spending account, can justify a tax-free withdrawal.

The key thing to know, however, is that the IRS doesn't require you to incur the expense in the same year you make the withdrawal.

As long as the expense occurred after you opened and funded the HSA, your withdrawal can be tax-free even if it's years or decades later, says financial planner Kelley Long, a CPA, personal financial specialist and consumer financial edu-

cation advocate for the American Institute of CPAs. You just need to keep the receipts for the qualifying expenses in case you're audited by the IRS.

"I call this the shoebox strategy," Long says. "You're storing up your receipts because there is no statute of limitations on when you reimburse yourself for eligible expenses."

You'll want to guard against fading ink so you can actually read the receipts years later, so Long recommends making digital copies. She takes a picture of her eligible receipts and stores them in folders labeled by the year.

## **SUPERPOWER 4: YOU CAN JUMP-START YOUR KIDS' RETIREMENT**

Typically, you can't claim your children as dependents for tax purposes after they're 19, or 24 if they're college students. But many kids stay on their parents' health insurance policies until they're 26, which gives parents a unique planning opportunity, says Mark Luscombe, a principal analyst for Wolters Kluwer Tax & Accounting.

A child who's not a dependent for tax purposes, but still on a parent's high-deductible health insurance, can set up their own individual HSA. □

# Chinese banks promise to step up cryptocurrency ban

**BEIJING (AP)** — China's biggest banks promised Monday to refuse to help customers trade Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies after the central bank said executives were told to step up enforcement of a government ban.

Regulators appear to worry that despite the 2013 ban on Chinese banks and other institutions handling cryptocurrencies, the state-run financial system might be indirectly exposed to risks. Beijing also worries users might evade efforts to monitor and control the financial system.

The four major state-owned commercial banks and payment service Alipay promised to step up moni-

toring of customers and block use of their accounts to buy or trade cryptocurrencies.

"Customers are asked to be more aware of risks, safeguard bank accounts and not to use virtual currency-related transactions," China Construction Bank Ltd. said on its website.

Similar promises were issued by Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd., Bank of China Ltd., Agricultural Bank of China Ltd., Postal Savings Bank of China Ltd. and Alipay, operated by Ant Group.

Promoters of cryptocurrencies say they allow anonymity and flexibility, but Chinese regulators warn that might aid money-laun-

dering or other crimes.

Bank executives were summoned to a meeting at which they were questioned about their activities and told to "maintain financial stability and security," the central bank said in a statement.

It said cryptocurrency trading "disrupts normal economic and financial order" and can facilitate money laundering and other crime.

Regulators tightened prohibitions against handling cryptocurrencies in 2017 and publicly reminded banks about their potential risks in May, possibly reflecting concern cryptocurrency mining and trading was continuing.



In this May 12, 2021, file photo, an advertisement of Bitcoin, one of the cryptocurrencies, is displayed on a tram in Hong Kong.

Associated Press

Regulators in several Chinese regions have ordered cryptocurrency mining operations to shut down. The Chinese central bank

is developing an electronic version of the country's yuan that could be tracked and controlled by Beijing. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 41 43-Across-

- 1 Important times
- 5 Original
- 10 Jeans material
- 12 Math comparison
- 13 Meet up
- 15 Building wing
- 16 Doc for dogs
- 17 Braying beast
- 18 Think appropriate
- 20 Poker payment
- 21 Uses a towel
- 22 Neptune's domain
- 23 Fire remnants
- 25 Blast of wind
- 28 Conspicuous
- 31 Creative work
- 32 Rip again
- 34 PC connection letters
- 35 Middle: Abbr.
- 36 Dallas sch.
- 37 Brawl
- 40 Carl's wife in "Up"

## DOWN

- 1 Borders
- 2 Staggered
- 3 Elk feature
- 4 Plop down
- 5 Worry
- 6 Sewer rodent
- 7 Flammable gas
- 8 Midday break
- 9 Stable group
- 11 Multiplex offerings
- 14 Travolta film
- 19 Decrees
- 20 Good quality
- 24 Extremely
- 25 Makes deep cuts
- 26 Try to induce
- 27 None too obvious
- 29 Save
- 30 Tex-Mex snack
- 33 Held power
- 35 Trumpeter Baker
- 38 Bakery choice
- 39 Hosp. hookups

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Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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				14				
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40					41			
42					43			

AXYDLBAAXR  
IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-22

## CRYPTOQUOTE

B GZA GI HBWD FDIFMD C  
SBRRDZDYG ECA IR MIQBJH  
CG GNDBZ TLZZILJSBJHT.  
GNCGT CZG GI KD. — KCAC  
MBJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ONCE YOU BRING LIFE INTO THE WORLD, YOU MUST PROTECT IT. WE MUST PROTECT IT BY CHANGING THE WORLD. — ELIE WIESEL



In this Nov. 20, 2020, file photo a U.S. Department of Homeland Security plaque is displayed a podium as international passengers arrive at Miami international Airport where they are screened by U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Miami.

Associated Press

## Ransomware gangs get paid off as officials struggle for fix

**BOSTON (AP)** — If your business falls victim to ransomware and you want simple advice on whether to pay the criminals, don't expect much help from the U.S. government. The answer is apt to be: It depends. "It is the position of the U.S. government that we strongly discourage the payment of ransoms," Eric Goldstein, a top cybersecurity official in the Department of Homeland Security, told a congressional hearing last week.

But paying carries no penalties and refusing would be almost suicidal for many companies, especially the small and medium-sized. Too many are unprepared. The consequences could also be dire for the nation itself. Recent high-profile extortion attacks led to runs on East Coast gas stations and threatened meat supplies. The dilemma has left public officials fumbling about how to respond. In an initial step, bipartisan legislation in the works would mandate immediate federal reporting of ransomware attacks to assist response, help identify the authors and even recoup ransoms, as the FBI did with most of the \$4.4 million that Colonial Pipeline recently paid.

Without additional action soon, however, experts say ransoms will continue to skyrocket, financing better criminal intelligence-gathering and tools that only worsen the global crime wave.

President Joe Biden got no assurances from Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva last week that cybercriminals behind the attacks won't continue to enjoy safe harbor in Russia. At minimum, Putin's security services tolerate them. At worst, they are working together.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said this month that she is in favor of banning payments. "But I don't know whether Con-

gress or the president is" in favor, she said. And as Goldstein reminded lawmakers, paying doesn't guarantee you'll get your data back or that sensitive stolen files won't end up for sale in darknet criminal forums. Even if the ransomware crooks keep their word, you'll be financing their next round of attacks. And you may just get hit again. In April, the then-top national security official in the Justice Department, John Demers, was lukewarm toward banning payments, saying it could put "us in a more adversarial posture vis-à-vis the victims, which is not where we want to be."

Perhaps most vehement about a payment ban are those who know ransomware criminals best — cybersecurity threat responders.

Lior Div, CEO of Boston-based Cybereason, considers them digital-age terrorists. "It is terrorism in a different form, a very modern one."

A 2015 British law prohibits U.K.-based insurance firms from reimbursing companies for the payment of terrorism ransoms, a model some believe should be applied universally to ransomware payments.

"Ultimately, the terrorists stopped kidnapping people because they realized that they weren't going to get paid," said Adrian Nish, threat intelligence chief at BAE Systems.

U.S. law prohibits material support for terrorists, but the Justice Department in 2015 waived the threat of criminal prosecution for citizens who pay terrorist ransoms.

"There's a reason why that's a policy in terrorism cases: You give too much power to the adversary," said Brandon Valeriano, a Marine Corps University scholar and senior adviser to the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, a bipartisan body created by Congress. □

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# Beyond "In the Heights," colorism persists, rarely addressed

By **ASTRID GALVAN**  
**Associated Press**

Every year, Hollywood inevitably comes under criticism for its lack of racial diversity. But another lesser-known yet still pervasive problem also resurfaces: the lack of diversity in skin tone.

It happened again with "In the Heights," a big-budget film based on the musical created by Lin-Manuel Miranda, which was called out this week for its dearth of dark-skinned, Black Latinos in leading roles.

Colorism — or discrimination against darker-skinned people within their same ethnic group — lurks deep among pretty much all communities with varying levels of melanin. But it doesn't get talked about, and that could be a setback for the racial justice efforts that intensified after the police killing of George Floyd last year.

Avoiding the conversation will hinder the battle for racial justice because the two are "fully and inextricably linked," said Ellis P. Monk, Jr., a sociology professor at Harvard University who has been researching colorism for years.

Monk says the issue is prevalent in all communities of color and has been taboo in part because it's uncomfortable to talk about internal strife while also fighting against broader discrimination based on race and ethnicity.

"In a way, colorism and skin tone stratification is an



**Jon M. Chu, Stephanie Beatriz, Melissa Barrera, Leslie Grace and Jimmy Smits, from left, arrive at a screening of "In the Heights" during the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival at TCL Chinese Theatre on Friday, June 4, 2021, in Los Angeles.**

**Associated Press**

even more difficult problem to fix because you could make the argument that everyone is involved in the system of colorism," Monk said. "If we think about race and racial inequality without taking these skin tone differences seriously, then we're actually missing how this system of racial inequality works."

Miranda, best known as the creator of the Broadway musical "Hamilton" and a longtime champion of including Latinos in the arts, recognized his own shortsightedness in addressing colorism and issued an apology.

"I can hear the hurt and frustration, of feeling still unseen in the feedback,"

Miranda wrote. "I hear that without sufficient dark-skinned Afro-Latino representation, the work feels extractive of the community we wanted so much to represent with pride and joy."

The legendary Rita Moreno likewise turned introspective on colorism after she faced backlash in her defense of Miranda when she implied that Latinos should be grateful they're being represented in any fashion. She has since apologized. There is little data that tracks discrimination based on skin tone, and therefore it is hard to quantify just how pervasive colorism is. But the studies that do exist show that people with

darker skin have higher incarceration rates, lower access to health care and education and live in poorer neighborhoods, several experts say.

Nayeli Chavez, a clinical psychologist and faculty at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, has spent a decade looking into racial differences between ethnic groups.

"We have been socialized from childhood to look down on darker skin, on indigenous features," Chavez said.

As a psychologist who has dedicated her career to helping people heal from racial trauma, Chavez sees how avoiding the topic of colorism is detrimental

and says there is a false assumption in Latin America that because those places were colonized and its people are of mixed races, there is no racism.

The key to changing behavior is by teaching history accurately and admitting that those biases exist.

"Racial justice begins with our own community. It literally begins in our own families," Chavez said. "This is an area that there's so little about. We are barely like touching the tip of the iceberg."

Nancy López, a professor of sociology at the University of New Mexico, said one way Latinos and other communities of color can begin to address colorism is by asking themselves a simple question: what is your "street race?"

Street race refers to the race someone assumes you are when you're walking down the street and they know nothing else about you. Take former President Barack Obama, who is half-white. Someone who saw him in the street would likely see him as Black — his street race.

López, who also directs and co-founded the Institute for the Study of "Race" and Social Justice at UNM, said the concept of street race affects family dynamics, too. Two siblings from the same parents may have different skin tones and therefore different experiences in how they're perceived and treated, López said. □



**In this Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, file photo, U.S. actor Will Smith poses for photographers during the photo call of "Bad Boys for Life," in Paris.**

**Associated Press**

## Will Smith opening up, releasing memoir 'Will' in November

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Will Smith is ready to open up about his life story. Penguin Press announced Sunday that Smith will release his memoir called "Will" on Nov. 9. The actor-rapper shared a photo of the book's cover art to more than 54 million of his followers on Instagram. Smith said he is "finally ready" to release the memoir after working on the book for two years. His book will be published by

Penguin Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House and co-authored by Mark Manson, the author of "The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F(asterisk)ck."

"It's been a labor of love," Smith said in his post. Smith will also narrate the audiobook of "Will" from Penguin Random House Audio.

"Will" looks to tell a story about Smith's life and career. The book will delve into him being raised in

West Philadelphia to entering superstardom as an actor and rapper.

He's a two-time Academy Award nominee and won a four-time Grammy winner.

Smith starred in the "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," "Bad Boys," "Men in Black" and "Pursuit of Happiness." He's won Grammys for "Summertime," "Men In Black," "Gettin' Jiggy Wit It" and "Parents Just Don't Understand." □



# Depay, Wijnaldum score, Netherlands beats NMacedonia 3-0

By **MIKE CORDER**

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — Memphis Depay scored one, he set up Georginio Wijnaldum for the next two, and the Netherlands made it three out of three.

The Dutch team completed the group stage at the European Championship with a 3-0 victory over North Macedonia on Monday, the second team at the tournament after Italy to win all three of its opening matches.

Memphis, who signed for Barcelona on Saturday, scored the first goal after a slick counterattack in the 24th minute. He then passed to Wijnaldum for a tap-in goal in the 51st, and seven minutes later goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski saved a shot from Memphis that Wijnaldum put into the roof of the net off the rebound.

Free from worrying about completing his move from Lyon to Barcelona, Memphis could concentrate on the match in front of him.

"I don't want to say it was



**Georginio Wijnaldum of the Netherlands, left, and Memphis Depay of the Netherlands celebrate after scoring their team second goal during the Euro 2020 soccer championship group C match between The Netherlands and North Macedonia at the Johan Cruyff Arena in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Monday, June 21, 2021.**

in my head," Depay said. "But of course it was in the background."

Barcelona came close to signing Wijnaldum, too, but he ultimately chose to move from Liverpool to Paris Saint-Germain.

The Netherlands had already won the group before the match and North Macedonia was already eliminated after losing its first two matches at its first major tournament.

The match at the Johan

Cruyff Arena was the 122nd and last international for North Macedonia captain Goran Pandev. His teammates formed a guard of honor and the crowd gave him a standing ovation as he was substituted in the

69th minute.

"I can only say I am happy to work with such a captain for five and a half years and I thank Goran Pandev for all he has done for soccer in Macedonia," said North Macedonia coach Igor Angelovski, whose contract with the national team expires next month.

North Macedonia created the best chances before Depay's goal.

Ivan Trickovski slid a shot low into the corner of the net in the ninth minute, but the goal was ruled out for offside. And in the 22nd, Aleksandar Trajkovski hit the post with a shot from outside the box after being set up by Pandev.

The Dutch took the lead two minutes later. Daley Blind tackled Pandev just outside the Dutch penalty area and the Netherlands new attacking partnership of Donyell Malen and Depay exchanged passes twice in a swift counterattack that ended with Depay shooting low past Dimitrievski. □

Associated Press

# Bird, Taurasi earn spots on fifth US Olympic basketball team

By **DOUG FEINBERG**  
**AP Basketball Writer**

Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi will try and become the first five-time Olympic gold medalists in basketball as they lead the U.S. women's team at the Tokyo Games. The duo was selected for their fifth Olympics on Monday, joining Teresa Edwards as the only basketball players in U.S. history to play in five. Edwards won four gold medals and a bronze in her illustrious Olympic career.

"It's just been a tremendous journey when you think about playing for that long," Taurasi said. "We're trying to take it to the next generation. Focused on what we have to do to come home with gold. Tremendous competition like no other because of COVID, the delay of the Olympics. We're really focused on winning gold."

There have been five international basketball players to play in five Olympics: Spain's Juan Carlos Navar-

ro, Brazil's Adriana Moises Pinto and Oscar Schmidt, Australia's Andrew Gaze and Puerto Rico's Teofilo Cruz.

The 40-year-old Bird and 39-year-old Taurasi will lead a veteran group in Japan, including 6-foot-6 Sylvia Fowles, who will be playing in her fourth Olympics. Tina Charles will be in her third while 6-8 Brittney Griner and Breanna Stewart are back for a second time.

There will also be six newcomers to the Olympic stage led by reigning WNBA MVP A'ja Wilson. The Las Vegas Aces star helped the U.S. win the World Championship in 2018 in Spain. Others making their Olympic debuts are Skylar Diggins-Smith, Chelsea Gray, Ariel Atkins, Jewell Loyd and Napheesa Collier.

"Happy for the roster we have. There's a great mix of very experienced players to first-time Olympians," said Dawn Staley, who will be the first Black head

coach of the team. "You need a good mix especially if you're going to take care of winning a gold medal today and what the future looks like."

Two former WNBA MVPs who didn't make the roster were Elena Delle Donne and Nneka Ogumike. Delle Donne hasn't played all season as she's recovering from back surgery. Ogumike has been sidelined with a left knee sprained suffered earlier this month. She was expected to return around the WNBA's Olympic break next month.

Both players were on the World Championship team that won gold in 2018 and Ogumike has been to nearly every U.S. training camp over the last few years. She's the only former WNBA MVP not to make an Olympic roster.

"Breaks my heart that Nneka isn't on this team," Staley said. "Having to make a decision today, if we had to make a decision a month



**United States' Diana Taurasi celebrates after making a three-point basket during the gold medal basketball game against Spain at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in this Saturday, Aug. 20, 2016, file photo.**

Associated Press

from now I'm sure she'd be healthy. This was one of the things she wanted to do. ... She's been a great voice in our training camp and practices. We're going to definitely miss Nneka."

The Americans have won the last six consecutive gold medals, not dropping a game at the Olympics since 1992. Staley has

been a part of five of those teams, three as a player and two as an assistant. She was honored to be the first Black coach to lead the U.S.

"I think it is something to be proud of. It also allows other doors to be open and opportunities for other Black coaches to hold these positions," Staley said. □



# Rahm finds perspective to go with passion and wins a U.S. Open

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Jon Rahm's road to becoming a U.S. Open champion might have started with a pair of bogeys.

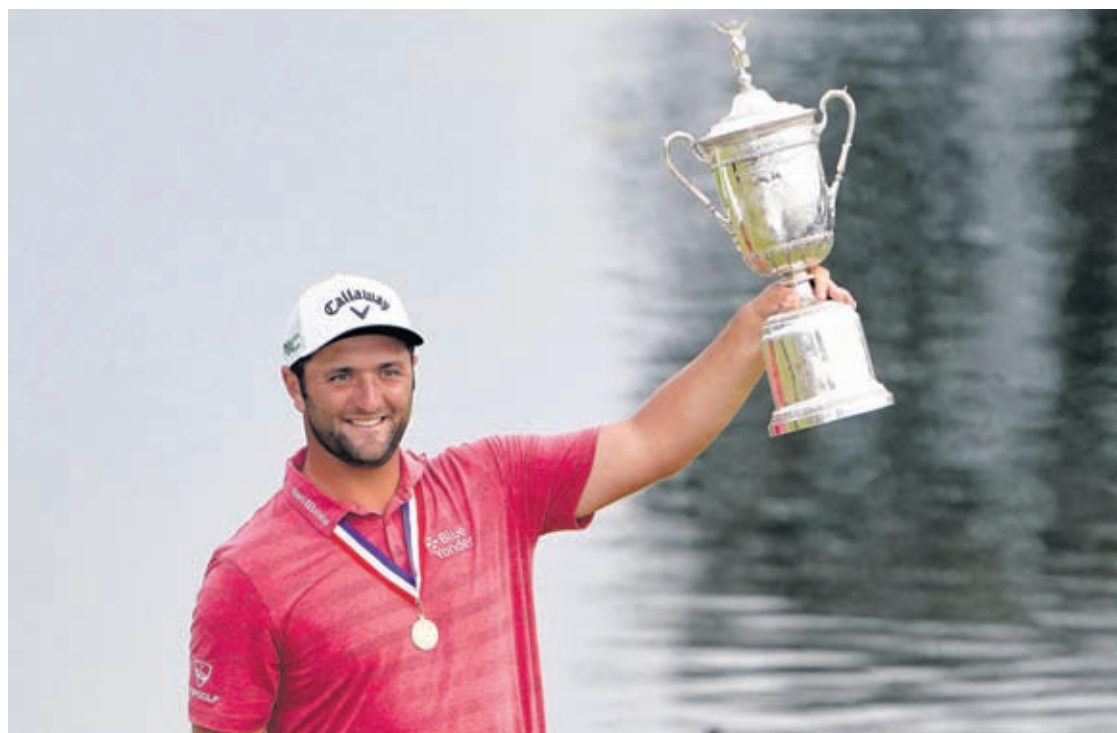
It ended with a pair of birdies at Torrey Pines that will be far more memorable. In the previous 120 editions of the U.S. Open, no one had ever birdied the last two holes for a one-shot victory. The result was pure euphoria for Rahm, a 26-year-old Spaniard known for power and passion, and it's the latter that always got more attention.

That's what took him back to a month ago at Kiawah Island. He struck the ball as well as ever and got nothing out of it. He finished the third round of the PGA Championship with back-to-back bogeys and Rahm was fuming when he was asked to meet with the media.

He was short. He was angry. And he'd had enough of being both.

His emotions helped as much as they hurt in leading him to 11 victories worldwide. But he was a new father, and he felt a greater responsibility.

"I know I can perform at my best without showing my frustration so much. I made that deal with myself after the third round of the PGA," Rahm said Sunday. "I wasn't happy with how I ended, and I could have handled it better. And I vowed to myself to be a better role



Jon Rahm, of Spain, holds the champions trophy for photographers after the final round of the U.S. Open Golf Championship, Sunday, June 20, 2021, at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego.

Associated Press

model for my son. He won't remember any of this because he's only 10 weeks old. But I do."

Nothing was sweeter than seeing Rahm take infant son Kepa into his arms as he walked off the 18th green Sunday after an 18-foot birdie putt that made him a major champion and added a chapter to the short history of the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines.

It wasn't as big as Tiger Woods making a 12-foot birdie to force a playoff in 2008. It won't be forgotten, either.

"Little man, you have no idea what this means right now," Rahm said to his son on the practice range when his one-shot victory

over Louis Oosthuizen was secure.

There was wonderment in his voice.

It was that change in perspective at Kiawah Island that he feels led to a closing 68 in the PGA, and an unprompted apology when he signed his card.

"It's OK to be upset, and I'm never going to judge myself for being upset," Rahm said that day. "But I will judge myself if I don't conduct myself properly."

He thrives on emotions, and they were in full view when he made the 25-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole to tie for the lead and the winning putt on the 18th.

But what he carried across the South Course was a

positive outlook.

It's what he had at the Memorial when he was building a six-shot lead after 54 holes, and when it was taken away from him by two men wearing masks behind the 18th green as they told him he had a positive COVID-19 test and was out of the tournament.

The statement he posted that night sounded scripted at the time. It was closer to raw truth with that shiny U.S. Open trophy at his side: "This is one of those things that happen in life, one of those moments where how we respond to a setback defines us as people."

He even watched the final round of the Memorial on TV.

"He's won two tournaments in a row. I don't care what anyone says. He had that title," Rory McIlroy said.

Rahm never looked at it that way. He has lived with the risk of COVID-19 for more than a year, and lost a friend, Jose Manual Cortizas, a sports reporter from Bilbao, Spain, who fell in love with golf while covering Rahm.

"This is the power of positive thinking," Rahm said. "I was never resentful for one second for what happened. And I don't blame anybody. It's been a difficult year, and unfortunately COVID is a reality in this world, and it's affected a lot of people."

McIlroy was among several contenders who lost their way on the back nine Sunday, and one of four players who made double bogeys that cleared the stage for Rahm and Oosthuizen.

McIlroy was quick to point out that someone would have to be in a good place mentally to bounce back from such a setback.

"But he obviously knew his game was there," McIlroy said. "And he just had to go out and play the way he knows he can."

With passion. With purpose. With birdies.

Two major champions helped along the way. Rahm said Pdraig Harrington and Nick Faldo reached out after his positive test to share their stories. □

# Manning rejoining Giants, working with business, fan roles



New York Giants NFL football quarterback Eli Manning announces his retirement in East Rutherford, N.J., in this Friday, Jan. 24, 2020, file photo.

Associated Press

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)**

— Eli Manning has a new job with the New York Giants.

The two-time Super Bowl MVP is rejoining the organization to work in business opportunities and fan initiatives.

The Giants announced the hiring Monday, roughly 18 months after Manning retired following the 2019 season.

"For 16 seasons, Eli represented and defined what it meant to be a Giant and we are excited for him to

join the business side of our front office," team co-owner and chief executive John Mara said. "Eli is one of the most beloved players in Giants history. We had a mutual interest in him returning to the organization and we're thrilled to welcome him back."

Manning, who set most of the Giants passing records, will help with initiatives stretching across business development, marketing and community and corporate relations. He will also collaborate on original

content development and fan engagement activations, including a new lifestyle series premiering this fall.

Manning played a Giants-record 236 regular-season games — plus 12 more in the playoffs — without ever missing one because of an injury.

On Sept. 26, Manning will be inducted into the Giants' Ring of Honor and will have his No. 10 jersey retired during a special halftime ceremony of their game against Atlanta. □